

Finance Committee Minutes

March 22nd 2012

The minutes for both March 8th and March 19th were distributed at 7:00PM; the meeting was called to order at 7:07PM with Mr. David Herrick presiding, Mr. Ira Yohalem, Ms. Pat Mielke, Mr. Bill Hattendorf, Mr. Burt Imberman and Mrs. Prudence Spaulding present. Guests included Mr. Michael Skorput, Mr. Nat Yohalem, and Ms. Tara White.

The minutes for March 8th were approved as read, Ms. Mielke 1st, Mr. Hattendorf 2nd passed unanimously. The minutes for March 22nd were approved as read, Mr. Hattendorf 1st, Mr. Yohalem 2nd passed unanimously.

The first order of business was a discussion regarding Berkshire South Community Center. The Finance Committee had approved of its request for funds on February 16th; however the selectmen had decided not to recommend this donation stating that they felt that by donating money to this agency it would encourage other social agencies to request funds. At the March 19th joint meeting with the selectmen the members of the Finance Committee had requested that Mr. Imberman investigate what other town gave a donation to Berkshire south and how much that donation was. Mr. Imberman reported that the figures he had received were inconclusive. The Committee continued the discussion. Ms. Mielke stated that since everyone in the town cannot benefit from the services provided by Berkshire South she had some questions regarding whether the town should give them the money. Some towns, such as Great Barrington have bylaws that prevent them from donating. Mr. Imberman will return to the various towns and report his finding at the next Finance Committee meeting. The donation may go in the town warrant with the statement Recommended by the Finance Committee but not recommended by the selectmen!

Mr. Ira Yohalem questioned Ms. Mielke (who serves as the town's treasurer) on how the town proposed borrowing funds for the highway truck and the fire truck. She explained that the town uses a financial planner (a Mr. Clark Rowell) who works for Uni Bank and who investigates the various offers involving interest and presents them to the town. Mr. Yohalem asked if because he is connected with a specific bank does he have access to other banks and thus able to obtain the best interest for the town. To which Ms. Mielke stated that he does. Mr. Herrick questioned whether because the truck needed a 10 year loan and the fire truck a 20 year loan would this make the process more difficult. To which Ms. Mielke stated "no"! Ms. Mielke added that by the time of the town meeting she would have the figures regarding these vehicles. Mr. Yohalem stated that perhaps the loans should be secured by using bonds and the town should attempt to obtain the amortization for as long as possible and then renew the loan when it expires. He requested that he meet with Mr. Rowell when he presented his proposal to the town. Ms. Mielke stated that she would arrange a meeting so that Mr. Yohalem could be included, and

hopefully the other members of the Finance Committee could be included at this meeting. The Committee the review of the remaining budgets!

Website Maintenance [10116.00] (\$2000) now requesting {\$2075} *approved by the selectmen*, Ms. Mielke 1st, Mr. Yohalem 2nd passed unanimously.

Administrative Assistant [10129.00] (\$33,456) now requesting {\$36,000} *approved by the selectmen*, Ms. Mielke 1st, Mrs. Spaulding 2nd passed unanimously.

Town Accountant [10135.02] (\$15,925) now requesting {\$16,323} *approved by the selectmen*, Ms. Mielke 1st, Mr. Yohalem 2nd passed unanimously.

Assessors Salaries [10141.00] (\$6,000) now requesting {\$6500} approved by the selectmen. This item generated some discussion. If all three assessors attended the monthly evening meetings they would receive approximately \$2000 each and granting these raises seemed unnecessary. Mrs. Spaulding 1st, Ms. Mielke 2nd the motion did not pass as the other four members of the committee voted against granting these increase.

Assessors Clerk {10141.02} (\$16,226) now requesting {\$16,632} *approved by the selectmen*, Ms. Mielke 1st, Mr. Yohalem 2nd passed unanimously.

Tax Collector's Salary [10147.02] (\$22,093) now requesting {\$22,646} *approved by the selectmen*, Mrs. Spaulding 1st, Mr. Imberman 2nd passed unanimously.

Tax Collector Certification [10147.05] {\$1000} paid by law to the tax collector upon completion of the certification process. Mr. Yohalem 1st, Ms. Mielke 2nd passed unanimously.

Treasurer's Salary [10147.01] (415,943) now requesting {\$16,342} approved by the selectmen, Mrs. Spaulding 1st, Mr. Hattendorf 2nd passed unanimously.

Roads and Bridges Salaries [20422.03] (\$237,629) now requesting {\$246,843} These salaries include increases for the workers, the establishment of a foreman's position and an increase for the highway superintendent that brings his salary up to \$61,0000. Approved by the selectmen! Mrs. Spaulding 1st, Ms. Mielke 2nd passed unanimously, however the members would like to see that actual breakdown of the salaries on the town warrant.

Cemetery Salaries [20491.01] (\$32,251) now requesting {\$33,207} approved by the selectmen, Ms. Mielke 1st, Mr. Hattendorf 2nd passed unanimously.

SBRSD Operating and Transportation [30000.01] (\$2,265,079) now requesting {\$2,312,716} Mr. Yohalem 1st, Mr. Hattendorf 2nd passed unanimously.

SBRSD Capital [30001.00] (\$25,806) now requesting {\$87,828} selectmen may have to put part of the school's budget outside 2 ½! Mr. Yohalem 1st, Mr. Hattendorf 2nd passed unanimously.

Library Salaries [50610.02] (\$47,953) now requesting {\$50,066} *approved by the selectmen*, this figure included the librarian's salary which will be \$39,000, and her job will have increased responsibilities. Mr. Imberman 1st, Mr. Hattendorf 2nd passed unanimously.

Police Salaries [60210.04] (\$54,060) now requesting {74,576} *approved by the selectmen*, Mr. Yohalem 1st, Mr. Imberman 2nd passed unanimously.

Building Inspector's Salary [60241.04] (\$17,897) now requesting {\$18,344} approved by the selectmen, Mrs. Spaulding 1st, Mr. Yohalem 2nd passed unanimously.

Building Inspector's Expenses [60241.02] (\$2,476) level funded {\$2,476} Mr. Yohalem 1st, Mr Hattendorf 2nd passed unanimously.

Emergency Management Salary [60291.00] (\$1,000) now requesting {\$3,000} approved by the selectmen, Ms. Mielke 1st, Mr. Yohalem 2nd passed unanimously.

New Marlborough Rescue Expenses [60291.77] (\$22,000) will take {\$32,775} from the COMSTAR fund. Mr. Herrick stated that he considered this taking of these funds a mistake since the fund would need the money in the future. Mrs. Spaulding 1st, Mr. Imberman 2nd, passed with Mr. Herrick voting against the motion.

Tree Work [60294.01] (\$10,000) level funded {\$10,000} Ms. Mielke 1st, Mr. Hattendorf 2nd passed unanimously.

Transfer Station Salaries [70519.00] (\$16,660) now requesting {\$17,076} *approved by the selectmen* Ms. Mielke 1st, Mr. Hattendorf 2nd passed unanimously.

Transfer Station Expenses [70519.03] (\$70,000) now requesting {\$62,500} Mrs. Spaulding 1st, Mr Yohalem 2nd passed unanimously.

Animal Control Officer [60293.00] (\$1,700) now requesting {\$2,000} this is in essence a stipend for the Animal Control Officer Mrs. Spaulding 1st, Mr. Yohalem 2nd passed unanimously.

Animal Control Officer's Expenses [60293.78] (\$1,387) now requesting {\$1,470} this sum pays part of the control Officer's medical insurance, with a 75/25 split our assessed amount is based upon our population. Mr. Hattendorf 1st, Ms. Mielke 2nd passed unanimously.

Highway Pick-up Truck 2010 [80750.13 (\$21,346) now requesting {\$29,907} Ms. Mielke 1st, Mr. Yohalem 2nd passed unanimously.

Highway Truck 2011 [80750.11] (\$32,654) now requesting {\$31,436} Mrs. Spaulding 1st, Mr. Yohalem 2nd passed unanimously.

Ambulance 2010[80750.14] (\$30,176) now requesting {\$29,505.30} Ms. Mielke 1st, Mr. Herrick 2nd passed unanimously.

The Clerical and the Secretarial budgets were left for the next meeting by request of the selectmen. The New Marlborough Rescue Salary was put on hold so that Ms. Guidi could come in and explain about her position and the hours that she is anticipating working.

Mr. Herrick asked the group if they felt that we should have a public meeting and present the budget to the towns' people before the Town Meeting. A public meeting was scheduled for Monday April 23rd at 7:00PM in the town Hall. The next finance Committee will be held on Thursday March 29th at 7:00PM.

The meeting adjourned at 8:40 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Prudence Spaulding

Secretary.